TS Notes

QDC 3 Data Collection (March 20 - April 4, 2008)

QDC 3 Data Collection **is date specific** and must be your 135th day of school. Make sure you keep a snapshot of your 135th day data.

Please review the 'Data Validation Process and Report Schedule for Users' document posted in Reporting Manager web application for the schedule of the data deadlines for each validation process run in the current collection. This document also lists the times that the validation reports will be available for viewing in Reporting Manager web application and who has access to view the validation reports.

Remember that the data must be received by the data deadline in order to be included in the editing process and for validation issues to be reflected on the reports. Related SASI tables for each process must all be received by the data deadline in order for validation to be performed effectively at that time. For example, if data is expected to be viewed on the Monday's 11:15 am Precode Validation Report, that data must be sent by the Monday 9:00 am deadline.

-- Run the SASI orphan records process prior to all SWEET data collections.

We find quite a few orphan records. The delete orphan records utility is located in the Utility folder in SASI. Open the Delete Orphan Records atom, check student and/or teacher, click run. You should get a message stating it has successfully completed and that it has created an "Orphan.log" in the datafile folder for review. Note: We are researching a more comprehensive use of this utility.

-- If a student does not have a valid SSN, DO NOT make one up or use the old SCDE numbers issued in the 1990s to districts. The SSN should be left blank if the student's SSN is not available.

SIF Information

There are 5 special characters that cannot be used in the data for XML. They already have a meaning and cause problems with the SIF messages. Right now the symptom seems to be the messages are getting stuck in the ZIS and no other messages will go through until that one is resolved. We are trying to find out now if all the agents will need to be resynced or if deleting the message and correcting the data will kick off another message and resend just that one. We have two examples of what the error will look like in the ZIS sif message if anyone would like to review them (contact DTSqueue@ed.sc.gov). They are easy to spot if you know what to look for.

Special Characters:

- The less-than character (<) starts element markup (the first character of a start-tag or an end-tag). &
- The ampersand character (&) starts entity markup (the first character of a character entity reference). >
- The greater-than character (>) ends a start-tag or an end-tag. "
- The double-quote character (") can be symbolized with this character entity reference when you need to embed a double-quote inside a string which is already double-quoted. '
- The apostrophe or single-quote character (') can be symbolized with this character entity reference when you need to embed a single-quote or apostrophe inside a string which is already single-quoted.

Remember that when you are applying the patches/updates for SASI that you must either save a copy of the AFLM.* and the AFDM.* file and after the patch/update is applied copy them back into the data file folder. You can also recreate those files using the wizard inside the SASI SIF Agent. Keeping those files up to date makes sure that the SASI SIF Agent is monitoring the correct files and fields that your SIF Agents are pulling data from. If you change the external IP address being used by the eIGP/Destiny Text Book Agent and the soon to be released Excent agent, you will have to recreate the security certificate again in the ZIS and then import it in the Student Locator again.

SASI Training link:

Other Upcoming Data Collections

Precode Update Data Collection (March 17 – 21, 2008)

CATE Placement Data Collection (April 1 – 15, 2008)

HSAP Data Collection (April 23, 2008)

PACT Data Collection (May 14, 2008)

SASI Notes of Interest

GPA Calculations and the Uniform Grading Policy
The Technology Services team is aware of GPA rounding issues in SASI and is working with other offices within the Agency to provide a solution as soon as possible.

Course Titles: Long and Short
Districts can determine both long and short titles used in SASI for any activity/course offered in their schools. Curriculum leaders should follow guidelines provided for the current year in the 2007-08 Activity Coding System Manual for SASI Course Codes. Both and in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Activity Coding System Manuals are posted at the site: http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/tech/dts/TechDocs.html.

Repeat Tag for WP Mark
When a student receives a WP (Withdrawn Passing) mark in the Grade atom, this mark will transfer to the Course History atom. SASI users can use a mass change query to ensure the repeat tag "X" populates the Repeat tag cell in the Course History atom for all student records impacted. This repeat tag must be defined appropriately so that the WP will not be calculated as part of the GPA and the student should not receive credit for the course.

Master Schedules and SCDE Regulations for Student Records
SCDE Regulation for Defined Program, Grades 9-12, (R43-234), item "D—Course Records for Students," page 12, approved May 25, 2007 states the following:

1.   Each district superintendent must verify the accuracy of course records for students.
2.   The name and code number of every course that each student takes must be entered into the student data collection system (SASI™) active master scheduler at the time the student takes the course. Courses may not be added to the student's course history (transcript) without first being entered into the scheduler.
3.   Courses offered in nontraditional settings such as online courses, courses offered in conjunction with a college or technical college (i.e., dual credit), and courses offered by the school through the district, state, or another type of provider must be included in the active master scheduler.

Suggestions from Technology Services
You may want to set your own procedures to comply with this regulation, but the following ideas are shared for your consideration.

The teacher atom should include all persons "teaching" students. These teachers may be a part of the home school or any other entity through which a student is "taught" by an instructor.

If a teacher has not been hired for the position prior to building the master schedule in SASI, a placeholder can be used to indicate the teaching position; for example, the teacher's last name can be "01DCEnglish V" or "01SCVPhysics" or "01OCBiology." "01" would sort teacher's records so one could quickly view the names

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that need to be edited. The "DC" would indicate Dual Credit, "SCV" for SC Virtual or "OC for Online Course; and finally the subject for the course would be helpful when replacing the actual name for the teacher with the subject area he or she would teach.

The administrator responsible for scheduling students can pre-schedule students into specific sections prior to scheduling all students using the SASI Basic Scheduling, Mass Scheduling or Schedule Pro tool. This would ensure that such courses are a part of the master schedule for the school and that students are appropriately assigned to the teachers who are the actual instructors for these courses.

As soon as the school receives the correct information for the teacher(s), the person who edits this data would need to update the information for that teacher including certificate number, SSN, etc. as required by your district and the state regulations.

R43-234 lists provisions for schools awarding high school credits to student who attend various other entities, such as summer programs, district approval for courses not offered by their schools, adult education programs, dual credit arrangements, etc. Therefore, school schedulers should not be overly concerned about the

SC Data Quality Initiative… Promoting Data Quality

The purpose of the SC Data Quality Initiative is far reaching. Initially, the intent is to inform district Superintendents and administrators regarding the collection of SASI data. SDE collects hundreds of demographic and program related data throughout the calendar year. The data is utilized in making educational predications, formulating SCDE **State Report Card** ratings, and **determining district funding**. The quality of the data received is dependent upon the level of expertise and attention at the local level. It is essential that all SC school districts receive the data quality message!

Barbara Solomon, Data Quality Trainer - SCDE Office of Technology, travels throughout SC addressing the importance of SASI data. She provides 30 minute presentations focusing on the collection of accurate data to district administrators and principals. To request additional information, schedule a presentation, or discuss data quality concerns, Barbara Solomon can be reached at **(803) 734-0155** or via email: **bsolomon@ed.sc.gov**

credentials for the instructors providing courses through these entities.

If there are classes taught by persons who do not have proper certification, the license field in the teacher atom for these persons should be populated with "000000." Regulation 43-205 provides for a percentage of instruction (not to exceed 10%) taught by teachers not properly certified as long as this instruction does not include core content subjects for secondary schools. You may want to review this regulation in its entirety: http://ed.sc.gov/agency/stateboard/regs/article_19/234.doc

Changes in SASI, Version 9.1
SASI/NCS ABACUSxp, Version 9.0 Service Pak 1

PSS provided updates to SASI 9.0 in December, 2007 as part of enhancements and fixes for SASI. District SASI Coordinators may want to review all documentation carefully prior to installing any SASI upgrades for their school/district.

If you have not already installed the 9.0 Service Pak 1, you may want to wait until the summer timeframe reserved for state templates updates. Technology Services recommends that you install the SASI 9.0 Service Pak 1, 9.1 Interim Release 1 and 9.1 Interim Release 2 at the same time.

In the 9.1.exe release more than 50 software action requests (SARs) were addressed – both enhancements and fixes -- including the following:

Staff information may be transferred between schools in a district integration environment
Graduation Status with Course Exemptions report (HSG03) is a new report for students who have received an exemption from graduation requirements
Attendance may be taken on students with more than 100 lines of enrollment history
The maximum class size can be changed to less than the number of students assigned in the Sections atom when selecting the Allow Max < Schedule checkbox in the School atom
After New Year Rollover, the Retain field is not populated on subsequent rolls
Additional fixes for schools using Schedule Pro, the optimizer and rotations.

For more detailed information you can login using your ID and Password to http://customerlink.pearson.com and select the SASI product.

You can also view a recent webinar entitled "What's New with SASI 9.1" Webinar Recording.